



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT, DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER, TAYLOR, WASHBURN

December
2004

The 2004 edition of the *County Workforce Profiles* are now available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oea>

November unemployment rates climb as temps drop

The unemployment rate for the Northwest Wisconsin region rose in November as cooler temperatures ushered in job reductions. The unemployment rate in November rose to 4.9 percent from 4.1 percent in October. In spite of the increase the current rate is well below the 5.4 percent unemployed from one year ago.

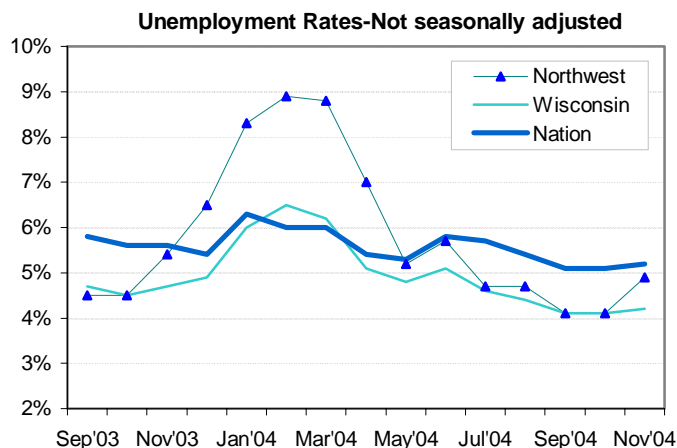
The increase in unemployment

in the region reflects the approach of winter and the job reductions that occur from mid-November through mid-March. In spite of the slow-down that accompanies the cooler weather the overall job market is in better shape this year than it has been for several years.

The labor force in Northwest Wisconsin included 90,980 employed residents in November and

4,690 unemployed. The increase in the number of unemployed in the region was the smallest in many years and the warmer fall temperatures may have contributed to that as construction and other outdoor projects continued into November. In fact, there were 4,200 construction jobs this November, 200 more than with one year ago.

Even with the warmer temperatures, the number of employed residents in each of the ten counties declined in November and added to the total number of unemployed. Most of the job losses occurred as leisure and hospitality employers reduced their payrolls at the end of the tourist season. There were 7,600 jobs with leisure and hospitality employers in November after a reduction of nearly 600 jobs from October. Even after the cutback the job count was higher than one year ago when there were 7,460 jobs in leisure and hospitality. The decrease was more than a typical reduction in November but reflects the hike in jobs that occurred during the summer months (more summer work-



	Sep'03	Oct'03	Nov'03	Sep'04	Oct'04	Nov'04
Northwest	4.5%	4.5%	5.4%	4.1%	4.1%	4.9%
Wisconsin	4.7%	4.5%	4.7%	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%
Nation	5.8%	5.6%	5.6%	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%

Civilian Labor Force Estimates* for Northwest Wisconsin counties: November 2004

	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03
Labor force	8,296	8,486	8,170	7,752	7,802	7,529	7,875	7,840	7,913	23,928	23,974	23,482	3,333	3,345	3,372
Employed	7,877	8,113	7,646	7,248	7,465	7,035	7,484	7,515	7,574	22,934	23,011	22,338	3,111	3,174	3,125
Unemployed	419	373	524	504	337	494	391	325	339	994	963	1,144	222	171	247
% unemployed	5.1	4.4	6.4	6.5	4.3	6.6	5.0	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.9	6.7	5.1	7.3

	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03
Labor force	7,341	7,410	7,244	7,076	7,062	7,025	10,591	10,741	10,356	11,096	11,125	11,275	8,383	8,537	8,353
Employed	7,049	7,152	6,905	6,647	6,671	6,653	10,092	10,370	9,789	10,580	10,691	10,772	7,962	8,174	7,796
Unemployed	292	258	339	429	391	372	499	371	567	516	434	503	421	363	557
% unemployed	4.0	3.5	4.7	6.1	5.5	5.3	4.7	3.5	5.5	4.7	3.9	4.5	5.0	4.3	6.7

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimates for Northwest Wisconsin: Current month - November 2004

(Employment in thousands)	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03
Total Nonfarm	8.8	8.9	8.6	4.0	4.2	3.8	5.0	5.0	5.1	18.3	18.4	18.2	2.3	2.3	2.3
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.4
Trade	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Financial Activities	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	2.1	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.6	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	2.8	2.9	3.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Government	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.4

	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03	Nov '04	Oct '04	Nov '03
Total Nonfarm	6.8	6.9	6.7	5.9	5.9	5.8	7.1	7.3	6.9	9.3	9.3	9.3	6.2	6.3	6.1
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Manufacturing	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	1.9	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.8	2.8	3.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0
Transportation & Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
Financial Activities	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Education & Health Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total Government	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2003 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

ers = more fall layoffs). Earlier this year the number of leisure and hospitality jobs peaked at 9,470 in August, 500 more jobs than in the previous August.

The total number of nonfarm jobs in Northwest Wisconsin declined by 1,000 in November to 73,500. In spite of the reduction there are 700 more jobs in the region this November than in November 2003.

Because of the job reductions in November all ten counties in the region were among the 52 in the State of Wisconsin that reported higher unemployment rates in November. But only seven northwest counties were included among the 55 that reported lower rates than one year ago. These trends statewide reflected the changes in the State of Wisconsin unemployment rate that increased from 4.1 percent in October to 4.2 percent in November but was down from the 4.7 percent unemployment rate of twelve months earlier.

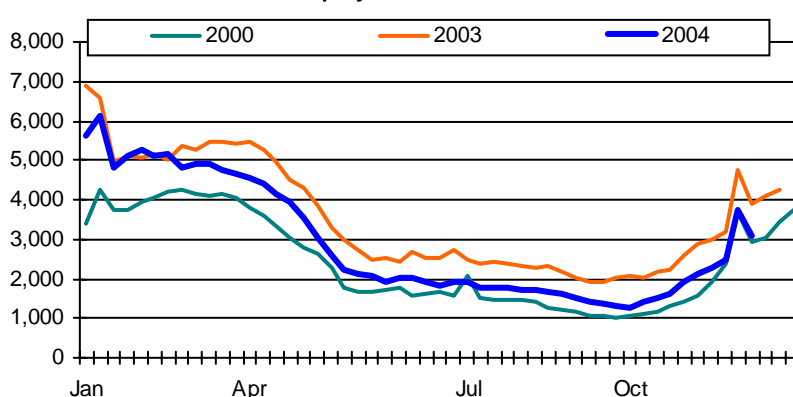
The second largest in-

crease in unemployment rate in the state occurred in Bayfield County with a jump of 2.2 percentage points from 4.3 in October to 6.5 percent in November. In spite of the increase the current rate in Bayfield County ranked ninth highest in the state and was less than the 6.6 percent unemployment rate from November 2003. The highest November unemployment rate in the region, 6.7 percent in Iron County, ranked seventh highest in the state and

was higher than the 5.1 percent unemployed in October.

Claims for unemployment benefits began to increase in October as they typically do and spike during the week of Thanksgiving. Claims this year remain below the level of the same week in 2003, however, but are still higher when compared to weeks in 2000. In the week that ended December 11, 2004 there were 3,067 claims filed by residents of Northwest Wisconsin.

Continued claims for unemployment benefits in Northwest Wisconsin



Find the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

Direct questions and comments to: **Beverly Gehrke, Labor Market Analyst**
 Hayward Job Center, 15618 Windrose Lane, Ste. 108, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843
 715-634-5289 715-634-6094(FAX) e-mail: Beverly.Gehrke@dwd.state.wi.us

